



# I-5: Iowa Street

## Viaduct Replacement Project



### Project Background

The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) is replacing the two Interstate 5 viaducts that cross over a ravine near SW Iowa Street in Southwest Portland. The project is at milepost 298 on I-5, just north of the Terwilliger Curves. Project construction began in August 2010 and is scheduled to be completed in 2013. ODOT appreciates your patience during this project work, which can often be noisy and inconvenient.

The decks of the I-5 Iowa viaducts were in very poor condition and in need of seismic upgrades. ODOT's bridge maintenance unit had done several patching projects on the deck. The patches were not a permanent repair and continued to fail as new cracks appeared. This project replaces the viaduct structures.

The original viaducts were completed in 1957, with three lanes in each direction and three-foot shoulders. The new viaducts will maintain three lanes in each direction. Safety will be improved with 12-foot shoulders, wider center medians, higher concrete barrier and retaining walls along the east and west sides of the freeway. Following construction of the viaducts, the walking trail passing under the viaducts will be rebuilt to City of Portland trail standards.



*A view of the viaducts and temporary bridge*

### Retaining Wall Façade and Construction

ODOT asked the community for feedback on potential wall treatments for the retaining walls in the project area. We attended several public forums and events, and used an online survey to seek input about possible wall treatments. Over 400 people provided feedback about the retaining wall treatments. We appreciate the community participation and are pleased to announce that the Oregon Basalt wall treatment will be used on all publicly visible retaining walls for this project.

In addition to the large and visible retaining walls on the west side of I-5, there are several retaining walls of varying size that will be constructed on the east side. These walls generally range from a couple of feet in height to about 10 feet high. East side wall construction is scheduled to begin in September.



*An artist's rendering of the Oregon Basalt retaining wall*

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## Limited Tree Removal Along East Side of the Freeway

For approximately one mile, in the project area, roughly 385 trees will be cut along the east side of the freeway to clear space for vehicles and equipment used to build the retaining walls. **This work is currently expected to take place during the week of August 22.** The cutting will occur during the day and may be rescheduled due to weather or other construction-related issues.

ODOT has worked with the City of Portland to minimize the impact of trees that will be removed. Approximately 440 native trees and more than 1,000 native shrubs will be planted along the east side of the freeway as mitigation for the removal of the trees in the ODOT right-of-way. Trees to be planted following construction of the viaducts include Grand Fir, Big Leaf Maple, Red Alder, Black Hawthorn and Douglas Fir. New shrubs include Vine Maple, Ocean-spray, Indian Plum and Red Elderberry.

## Lane Shifts onto New Detour Bridge

Southbound lanes were shifted to the new detour bridge after the barrier was moved and lanes were striped on Friday night, July 28. The shift was complete by Saturday morning. **The shift of the northbound I-5 lanes is scheduled for the weekend of August 5-6.** The contractor is expected to close two lanes of northbound I-5 traffic on Friday, August 5, and Saturday, August 6, 11 p.m. to 7 a.m. to transition traffic to the new alignment.

## Northbound Bridge Demolition

The demolition of the current northbound bridge is scheduled to begin in September. It will take a couple of weeks to remove the northbound bridge with demolition work taking place during the day only. Construction crews will use backhoes to safely remove the bridge deck. A mesh fence will be constructed to contain debris from the viaduct deck removal.

Construction of the new, permanent northbound bridge will begin once the current deck is removed. This daytime work will be noisy and ODOT appreciates your patience during this viaduct construction project.

## Contact Information

For the most up to date information on the I-5 Iowa Viaduct project, visit the project Web site: <http://www.oregon.gov/ODOT/HWY/REGION1/iowaviaduct/>

To join the project mailing list or schedule a meeting about the project, contact:

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*A view of the west side retaining wall under construction*



*A view of the temporary bridge before the southbound traffic shift*

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